

Manon

Saturday 19th Arrived at Tulot's Well c. 5.00pm. ~~Be~~ Settled in

- felt a bit nervous - with hope with the physical side - walking / excavating. But lots of v. welcoming people whom I know from previous years - Patrick, Faye, Cliff.

Sunday 20th First day on Bodmin. It rained heavily during the night & was still stormy when we set out - I didn't want it to be wet / windy - & it was great when the weather turned out well.

On the walk to the site I trailed behind - strange sensation when you lose sight of people & suddenly find yourself 'alone'. It's exhilarating but also a bit frightening.

Met Don (had left with him) - a first year at 19A. I've not seen him around the Institute.

Excavated LB E 2 with Faye, ~~then~~ taking turf off and then peat layers. slow work.

People come by several times during the day - comments: "Have you found anything interesting yet?" "Why do you use such small tools?" (I sometimes wonder myself). "Why are you doing this?" (not always easy to explain).

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~~People~~

People are friendly & interested - but usually also quite bemused.

Glorious evening - I feel 'out of doors' again.
Good.

Garry dropped in on his way back from
Leid's End. He is enthusiastic (as always)
about my possible work around the
Leet/wall junctions - and thinks I can
easily do 4 sections rather than just
one in the time available. Perhaps!
I'm really pleased that Sue has found me
something of my own to do - I only hope I
can do something reasonable - but it's
exciting.

Monday 21st Spent day at LBE 2 - Wall + entrance
section - taking off peat. Slow, careful
work - at times boring & at times totally
absorbing. Meal at Rising Sun on
way back. Faye, Sharon, Ken + Tanya and, late,

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Richard, went on up to Leskenich to watch
+ Patrick
the summer solstice. I came back with
Barbara to the Caravan Park - she is always
good to talk to - has a great skill with
people. Beautiful evening - in some
ways I regretted not going back up but
enjoyed being in Caravan too.

Tuesday 22nd

More clearing of the wall to prepare for
photography. I can't help feeling that
archaeology can be a bit precious
sometimes - lots of time spent on
preparing trenches meticulously when so
much remains to be excavated.

Day started well with a site tour from
Sue. I like her explanations - clear,
with lots of interpretation based on
looking at / thinking about the evidence -
& also explaining why particular trenches

of
are still whose they are

Evening Meeting at Altman Church

Hall. Bread & wine everywhere
but the meeting was dramatic.

looked questions on a clipboard —

whose agenda? Certainly not the

audience's — it was like an

anthropology workshop designed to

provide copy for the anthropologist.

Henry's invitation on small group

workshop was inappropriate — particularly

as he did not control this size room

provide any structure as then,

it reminded me too much of 80's style.

Adult Education — I thought. No

clip charts would come out along

the walls as a feedback system.

This was a pity, as Sue & Chris both

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spoke well, & I thought the exhibition
was great — though very intense,
possibly too compact, & with too
many wards.

Some very interesting people there — I
liked the man from the Wildlife Trust
& his accounts of taking his
dwarf goat wife up Larkentich — he
was deadly ~~so~~ skeptical about
her skills.

Robin —, a local artist, was
good to talk to. Interesting that she
appears to think Cornwall is not England.
I agree about leaving Bodmin unchanged,
though for different reasons from many of
the audience (a bit of middle-class
N.I. M. B.Y. going on, I think).

No 'genius' farmers there.

Archaeologists mostly left early &

Chris T. again on track to himself: modern people think differently from B.A. people - yet he can't identify stories of special significance to them.

None of them
I really don't like her daughter & point. 6

generally ~~against~~ disgruntled by the episode - several said they were 'conred'.

I ~~was~~ my car companions stayed until the end - I would have liked the chance to talk more to some of the people there.

It is ² ~~good~~ ^{quite} having contact with local people ~~in~~ ^{long} archaeology on past communities in same area - but ~~little~~ ^{continuity} continuity. I felt there was little if any link between present & past people.

Wednesday 23rd

Strange day: light drizzle, very little wind, quiet & sleepy.

Continued clearing & then took levels. Latter made a welcome change from removing soil from cracks & rocks!

We went straight back to Canelford - food, drink & bed.

Thursday 24th

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Beautiful day + wonderful walk on Bonthick. We come this way everyday + I always get left behind on the last hill climb up Lakeruch. I like this ~~as~~ as I like making the final approach on my own. Today I walked up to the point + took some photos.

It is still a weird feeling when no other person is in sight - isolated + disorienting. I was thinking today that something of our strong sense of mystery + magical isolation comes from the fact that it is now a landscape of stone. In the past, people might not have had such a strong sense; walls, substantial structures, people, home + security would have combined to make it a much more intimate experience than we have today. I do think that Chris T (especially) + lots of us are so strongly affected by the area just because it is so without domestic reference points - ~~modern~~ urban life.

Started "my" track - it's in a beautiful position - calm + pastoral (on a fine day like today) with one lone Hawthorn tree as a landmark. My best day on Lakeruch so far.

Evening of the Party of the two Andrews - I've never seen anyone get so drunk so ~~fast~~ quickly before - + then remain upright (more or less) + active through the evening

Stayed up till quite late in the bar - lots of music, drink & dancing.

Friday 25th

Day off. Slept in, caught up with field notebook & then into Camelherd for lunch with Gary, Faye & the two Andrews. Went shopping. Bought a pair of large secondhand boots from the Charity shop + hedge for the children - it's odd doing that - I feel worlds apart from London & family life.

Lazy day: gossip, talking & sitting around drinking tea.

Saturday 26th

Beautiful with sun & butterflies. Went up to Quoit for a while.

Good to get back to the heath - ~~the~~ it was still there, though the sheep had disturbed the section line.

Quiet purposeful day, with Faye washing with me most of the time.


I often look across at the remains of the to

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medieval long house by the river - I wonder about
the occupants, & ~~the~~ think of them labouring to build
the boat - it's a major work of construction -
Their lives must have been hard - & ? what
illnesses are associated with tin mining?

Increasingly the environmental usefulness of my
herd's energy - the possibility of comparing
2 sealed land surfaces. It makes me
interested / frustrated - I'd like to know more
about sequences / dates, & to be able to fit
any information into a wider picture of
the moor / site formation. This aspect
is often apparently overlooked ~~on~~ on the dig
- no, not overlooked but rather submerged
in the phenomenological / ritual / landscape
approach.

Sunday 27th

Rather a lonely day, with sharp bursts of rain.
At one point I wondered why I was doing this!!
Went to walk along boat after lunch - it
is beautifully curved  shape in places where
it is not distorted by ditches. It reminds me still
of drainage canals.

Wednesday 30th

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Didn't get round to doing a diary for the last 2 days -
~~the~~ I'm finding that keeping up with my field notebook
(+ a first attempt at some context sheets) seems as much
as I can do in the evenings. I've decided to leave the
context sheets (their writing - I've got notes) until
after the section drawing is complete.

I've done lots of walking and thinking over the last few
days - along beets, walls etc - but I'm still far
from feeling I really "know" Leskenich - it's the
sort of place that will always surprise, I think.
Our caravan (I share now only with Katie) has a great
view of the hills + who goes past to the bar/
telephone.

Chris Tilley goes by every evening to the phone
box - at slightly different times between
7.30 + 8.30, and it's become a bit of a joke
with us - our only chance of seeing him!

Thursday 1st July

I take back the bit about not seeing Chris T.!

He ate at the Rising Sun with us last night,

having joined in the bucket line to fill the hot I

Also, he went to the bar at the camp site later on & invited people back to his caravan for a party which went on until 2 am.

I still think the two aspects of the Project —
 archaeology + anthropology sit poorly together in
 excavation survey at

terms of the Project's framework.

Today was a hard day for me on site. It started with rain/wind/thick mist & I lost my sense of direction walking up Leckerich from Bonithink. ~~Spent~~ Spent quite a while walking around —

in a circle once, as I walked past the same stone area — my ~~to~~ 'meeting place' as I think of it, where the bedrock forms a natural backdrop to an almost Roman style area.

I finally found my sense of direction by climbing up to the Quoit — & that gives a clearer view from it than one would think from working on the hill, where it is usually invisible.

I got quite cold & wet, & found it difficult to make the necessary alterations to my section drawing in the

driving rain. Ended ¹² day ~~back~~ backfilling — felt a
sense of disappointment as the section 'was' became
almost indistinguishable from the rest.
To be an archaeologist requires a lot of patience
& attention to detail as well as stamina!

I was shocked by one episode today. So far, people
generally (eg SH. & M.S.-T), ~~have~~ & hence myself,
have referred to the date of the last construction
as '? medieval'. Gary K. said ~~it was~~
today in passing that it was unlikely to be
medieval; the longhouses on the moors are
associated with heaving; Fin marking was more
likely to be a 18/19 activity.

Medieval as 19? Quite a difference. A reminder
of the fragility of interpretation when derived from
a lack of evidence.

Friday 2nd

An 'office day' to me — I wished off the section
plan + context sheets. In the afternoon I went into
Canelford to find an A3 copier — and was
diverted in turn from one shop to another —
5 tries — the solicitor's clerk, for example, sent
me to the shop next door — whose owner said he didn't

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I am slowly getting to know — but I'm not
sure if I'll come back to visit it on a
casual "tourist" basis — I'd miss having a howel
in my hand.
